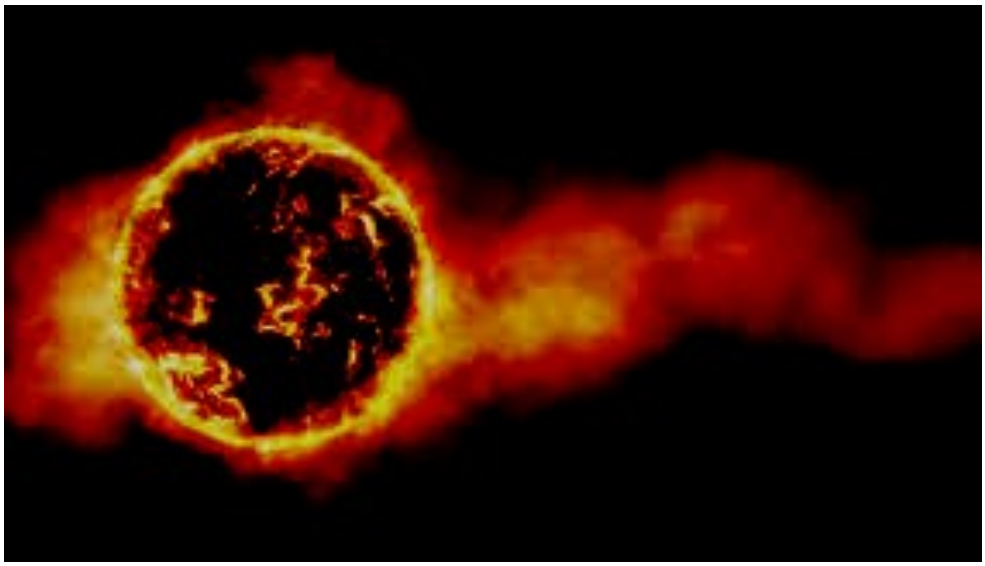
Meanwhile in Glesga - A load a' aul shite talk

Meanwhile in Ballymena - Welders, PSNI, life skills and death pods

The number of stars in the sky is very low.

BLACK STAR



AS THE PLANET BURNS

REVOLUTION

IS THE ONLY

SOLUTION!

As politicians bluster, pose and spout worse than empty rhetoric lets remember something. We are not in the midst of an environmental catastrophe. No, we are in the midst of a catastrophic destruction that has been wrought on the planet and the vast, vast majority of its inhabitants quite deliberately. We are in the midst of a capitalist crisis on a scale not previously experienced. This is a crisis that no amount of posturing can save us from. This is a crisis that no amount of genuine, if misguided, 'goodwill' and compromise at COP26 can save us from. The various mouthpieces of Capitalism, those world leaders who give not one flying fuck about destruction as long as it is profitable, cannot save us!

The motley crew of Capitalist cronies gathered together at the SEC in Glasgow ARE the problem - not the solution.

There are precious few solutions to be found in handwringing and self congratulatory protest actions and stunts either.

The task we are up against demands serious organisation, serious resistance, and a serious fightback! We need to organise on the basis of class, across all the divisions and borders encouraged, fostered and imposed on us, in order to do that which only a locally and globally organised working class can do.

That is destroy capitalism and it's pursuit of profit. It is the pursuit of profit that is destroying lives, people, animals, habitats, communities. It is the pursuit of profit that is destroying the planet.

It is getting late in the day and the task we face may seem insurmountable but it is a task that we must begin to undertake. Applying pressure, using direct action to push back the capitalist onslaught on our planet, building solidarity, building the social revolution from the bottom up!

‘The Number of Stars in the Sky Today is Very Low.’

In late October the BASF - Bangladesh Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation published an article *The Game of Stateism and Capitalism* exploring the rise to power of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the ‘savage rule’ they have imposed there. Neighbouring Afghanistan the BASF have been instrumental, with international assistance, in helping a number of anarchists fleeing the Taliban.

As they detailed many have been forced to flee, many more have been unable to do so, while ‘women are being treated with the most hostility’:

> Various fatwas have been issued to force women to wear burqas and forbid them from going to work. Women are spending their time inside the house in fear.

The chaos around the US and NATO withdrawal, the horrific scenes at Kabul airport, they describe how the Taliban seizure of power has made it clear ‘that a darker chapter was beginning in Afghanistan.’ The fostering of the Taliban initially by the USA in opposition to Soviet occupation has been charted to the position today in which China, Pakistan and Russia are the major imperialist powers supporting the Taliban. As one of the various groups initially supported by the United States against the then-Soviet Union the Taliban have swept to power on the back of the US and NATO withdrawal. Western imperialist interests and those such as the Taliban and Islamic State, utilising the ‘mantra’ of opposition to imperialism, are both rejected by the BASF. They state, ‘The relationship between stateism, capitalism, fundamentalism, imperialism and fascism is close.’

Condemning religious fundamentalism of all stripes they call for vigilance and awareness ‘The rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan is not good news for human civilization.’ The alternative to imperialism, fundamentalism, states, terror and capitalism lies in a small but growing anarchist communist movement. While reflecting:

> It's a very bad time now… There are a small number of real anarchist communists. The number of stars in the sky today is very low. Now we are in a state of turmoil. It is very difficult to tell who is true and who is false.

The BASF none-the-less beautifully recognise that anarchist communism offers hope for humanity:

> There is nothing more beautiful and glorious in the world than anarchism-communism.

We will leave the concluding comments to them in their entirety:

This is a difficult path. It is a dangerous long run. We can lose our comrades; we can make a lot of mistakes. There may be a lot of opinions and walks along the way. When difficult times come, we may think of giving up. We must also remember that we will get what we want from communism. It's just a matter of time.

The fight for communism is a long-term fight. Big victories in small campaigns. There is nothing more creative and beautiful and more courageous than fighting for anarcho-communism. There is no bigger campaign than this.

We shall make history. We will live and die for Anarchism-communism. We want nothing more.

Anarcho-Syndicalist Union growing in Chile

Members of Solidaridad Obrera - International Workers Association in the Valparaíso Region of Chile are building the union. They state that they are 'in a process of anarcho-syndicalist agitation, organizational development, incorporation of new militants, and the establishment of our own space'.

From their initial contact with in 2019 with the Germinal Group in Concepción, a 'friends of' group of the IWA (AIT), they jointly requested affiliation as a full section of the anarcho-syndicalist international with the new name of Solidaridad Obrera .

Since then comrades in Valparaison have began building the Valparaíso Various Trades Union, bringing together workers in a range of industries and businesses in the region. 'Through an Introductory Workshop on Anarcho-Syndicalism, the new members of the Union can have access to information that allows them to face the struggle with the necessary tools to achieve their objectives, in a fraternal environment, where collective knowledge is shared.'

Since becoming a section of the IWA the Union has grown steadily, reached more communities in the region, and working federally as part of Solidaridad Obrera - AIT they 'have raised campaigns at the regional level that allow anarcho-syndicalism to grow, and project it from the South to the whole world'.

Meanwhile in Glesga

As politicians continued to talk shite inside the SEC the police arrested an inflatable Nessie, questioned protestors for "talking to people", stopped a TV presenter for "looking surreptitious", and kettled more protestors for hours, refusing access to medication or toilets. The representatives of capitalism gathered in Glasgow cannot save the planet from capitalism. As reassuring as it may be for those who can afford greener lifestyles your lifestyle won't either. The destruction of the planet in the pursuit of profit is the very stuff of capitalism. As long as capitalists pursue profit and nationalists pursue war destruction will fall on the masses and on the earth.

Rather than wondering how much overtime a new fangled air-source, ground-source or hybrid heat pump will cost you (if you are 'lucky' enough to have the privilege of overtime) isn't it time to work seriously on dismantling capitalism?

Meanwhile in Ballymena...

Environmental destruction in pursuit of some form of financial gain hit Ballymena with the spontaneous combustion of a dozen cars at a local car showroom the other week.

Meanwhile 40 new jobs have been created in Pennybridge Industrial Estate at Duneane Engineering. Another 35-40 welders are to be employed next year. Attracted by Ballymena's leadership 'in the highly skilled manufacturing and engineering industries', no doubt rock bottom wages and poor terms and conditions. Well I suppose that if its too shit there's always the PSNI recruitment drive - featured in our very own *Ballymena Times*. Just 5 GCSEs (but no independent thought is encouraged) to get a secure job, £25,902 a year after 2 years, a gun and, no wait...

I'd rather go ask our newest teen entrepreneur for work at his minimum wage milkshake shop. He has 'valuable life skills' on offer to boot.

Or maybe I'll just roll up into one of then Covid proof coffin pods from out Portglenone way...

Get Involved: Help Build An Anarchist Alternative.

Organise! is an anarchist political group in Ireland who take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, particularly those organised on anarcho-syndicalist lines. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985.

We are a small group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world the continuation of the present system is even crazier…

The current system isn't working – stress and overwork affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to pay for the natural resources; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatise, imprison and deport the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore the website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Derry, Lisburn, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at https://organiseanarchistsireland.com and send an email to:

organiseasi@gmail.com